

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 07824 151016Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /052 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1601

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, TH
SUBJ: KHUKRIT PRAMOT SUFFERS MILD STROKE

1. AP REPORTED MARCH 15 THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT, 67, HAS SUFFERED A STROKE AND IS RECUPERATING AT HOME. THE REPORT SAYS KHUKRIT APPARENTLY SUFFERED SOME PARALYSIS BUT HAS NOT DROPPED HIS COLUMN IN THE SIAM RATH NEWSPAPER.

2. AN ARTICLE IN THAI RATH NEWSPAPER OF MARCH 14 DESCRIBED KHUKRIT'S CONDITION AS MUCH IMPROVED. THE REPORT SAID HE SUFFERED A MILD STROKE ON MARCH 9 WHICH IMPAIRED HIS SPEECH AND AFFECTED MOVEMENT OF THE LEFT SIDE OF HIS BODY. THE REPORT SAID THAT BY MARCH 12 HIS CONDITION HAD IMPROVED EXCEPT FOR AN ITCH IN HIS RIGHT FOOT WHICH, ACCORDING TO KHUKRIT, COULD ONLY BE SCRATCHED BY KICKING THE LAO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOUPHAN SIDPHASAY, WHO RECENTLY CLAIMED THE RTG HAD PERMITTED RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF US BASES IN THAILAND. THE RATH ARTICLE SAID KHUKRIT PLANS TO MAINTAIN HIS SOCIAL SCHEDULE, WHICH INCLUDES HOSTING A PARTY FOR SEVERAL DEPARTING DIPLOMATS ON MARCH 18, AND A TRIP TO JAPAN SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 25.

3. A MISSION SOURCE CLOSE TO THE FAMILY SAID THE STROKE
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 07824 151016Z

WAS VERY MILD AND THAT KHUKRIT HAS PRACTICALLY FULLY RECOVERED. THE SOURCE SAID THE SEIZURE WAS BROUGHT ON BY FATIGUE AS A RESULT OF KHUKRIT'S DEMANDING SELF-IMPOSED, WORK SCHEDULE.

4. COMMENT: KHUKRIT HAS EXPERIENCED HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE PAST. HE WAS HOSPITALIZED WITH PNEUMONIA IN PEKING

WHILE ON A VISIT TO THE PRC LAST OCTOBER. ALTHOUGH HIS
STROKE IS, BY ALL REPORTS, MILD, IT WILL INEVITABLY GIVE
RISE TO SPECULATION ABOUT KHUKRIT'S POLITICAL FUTURE.
WHITEHOUSE

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